

CONFIDENTIAL.]

## REPORT

[No. 23 of 1878.]

ON

## NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 8th June 1878.

## LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

| No.                         | Names of Newspapers.             | Place of publication.            | Number of copies issued. | Dates of papers received and examined for the week. |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <b>BENGALI.</b>             |                                  |                                  |                          |   |
| <i>Monthly.</i>             |                                  |                                  |                          |   |
| 1                           | "Bhārat Shramjibī" ... ..        | Barāhanagar ... ..               | 4,000                    |   |
| 2                           | "Rajshahye Sambād" ... ..        | Rajshahye ... ..                 | .....                    |   |
| 3                           | "Grāmvartā Prakāshikā" ... ..    | Comercolly ... ..                | 200                      |   |
| 4                           | "Arya Pratibhā" ... ..           | Bhowanipore ... ..               | .....                    |   |
| 5                           | "Suhrid" ... ..                  | Calcutta ... ..                  | .....                    |   |
| <i>Bi-monthly.</i>          |                                  |                                  |                          |   |
| 6                           | "Culna Prakāsh" ... ..           | Culna ... ..                     | .....                    |   |
| 7                           | "Hindu Lalanā" ... ..            | Nawabgunge, Barrack-pore. ... .. | .....                    |   |
| 8                           | "Sahayogī" ... ..                | Bhawānīpore, Calcutta ... ..     | .....                    |   |
| <i>Weekly.</i>              |                                  |                                  |                          |   |
| 9                           | "Banga Hitaishī" ... ..          | Bhowanipore ... ..               | .....                    |   |
| 10                          | "Bhārat Mihir" ... ..            | Mymensingh ... ..                | 658                      | 30th May 1878.                                      |
| 11                          | "Bhārat Sanskarak" ... ..        | Harināvi ... ..                  | .....                    |   |
| 12                          | "Bengal Advertiser" ... ..       | Ditto ... ..                     | .....                    |   |
| 13                          | "Bishwa Dūt" ... ..              | Tāligunj, Calcutta ... ..        | .....                    | 5th June 1878.                                      |
| 14                          | "Burdwan Prachārikā" ... ..      | Burdwan ... ..                   | 165                      |   |
| 15                          | "Burdwan Sangivani" ... ..       | Ditto ... ..                     | .....                    | 4th ditto.  |
| 16                          | "Dacca Prakāsh" ... ..           | Dacca ... ..                     | 400                      | 2nd ditto.  |
| 17                          | "Education Gazette" ... ..       | Hooghly ... ..                   | 1,168                    | 31st May 1878.                                      |
| 18                          | "Grāmvartā Prakāshikā" ... ..    | Comercolly ... ..                | 200                      | 5th June 1878.                                      |
| 19                          | "Hindu Hitaishini" ... ..        | Dacca ... ..                     | 300                      | 1st ditto.  |
| 20                          | "Hindu Ranjikā" ... ..           | Beauleah, Rajshahye ... ..       | .....                    | 29th May and 5th 1878.                              |
| 21                          | "Murshidabad Pratinidhi" ... ..  | Berhampore ... ..                | .....                    | 31st May 1878.                                      |
| 22                          | "Pratikār" ... ..                | Ditto ... ..                     | 235                      | 31st ditto.   |
| 23                          | "Rungpore Dik Prakāsh" ... ..    | Kākiniā, Rungpore ... ..         | 250                      |   |
| 24                          | "Sādhārānī" ... ..               | Chinsurah ... ..                 | 516                      | 2nd June 1878.                                      |
| 25                          | "Sahachara" ... ..               | Calcutta ... ..                  | .....                    | 3rd ditto.  |
| 26                          | "Sambād Bhāskar" ... ..          | Ditto ... ..                     | .....                    |   |
| 27                          | "Sulabha Samāchār" ... ..        | Ditto ... ..                     | 5,500                    | 1st ditto.  |
| 28                          | "Soma Prakāsh" ... ..            | Bhawānīpore ... ..               | 700                      | 3rd ditto.  |
| <i>Bi-weekly.</i>           |                                  |                                  |                          |   |
| 29                          | "Banga Mitra" ... ..             | Calcutta ... ..                  | 4,000                    |   |
| <i>Daily.</i>               |                                  |                                  |                          |   |
| 30                          | "Sambād Prabhākar" ... ..        | Calcutta ... ..                  | 550                      | 1st to 7th June 1878.                               |
| 31                          | "Sambād Purnachandrodaya" ... .. | Ditto ... ..                     | .....                    | 1st to 7th ditto.                                   |
| 32                          | "Samāchār Chandrikā" ... ..      | Ditto ... ..                     | 625                      | 31st May to 5th June 1878.                          |
| 33                          | "Banga Vidyā Prakāshikā" ... ..  | Ditto ... ..                     | .....                    | 1st to 7th June 1878.                               |
| 34                          | "Arya Mihir" ... ..              | Ditto ... ..                     | .....                    |   |
| <b>ENGLISH AND BENGALI.</b> |                                  |                                  |                          |   |
| <i>Weekly.</i>              |                                  |                                  |                          |   |
| 35                          | "Howrah Hitakari" ... ..         | Bethar, Howrah ... ..            | 300                      | 2nd June 1878.                                      |
| 36                          | "Murshidabad Patrikā" ... ..     | Berhampore ... ..                | .....                    | 31st May 1878.                                      |
| 37                          | "Burrisal Vartābaha" ... ..      | Burrisal ... ..                  | 300                      |   |
| <b>ENGLISH AND URDU.</b>    |                                  |                                  |                          |   |
| 38                          | "Urdu Guide" ... ..              | Calcutta ... ..                  | 400                      | 1st June 1878.                                      |
| <b>URDU.</b>                |                                  |                                  |                          |   |
| <i>Bi-monthly.</i>          |                                  |                                  |                          |   |
| 39                          | "Akhbār-ul-Akhiār" ... ..        | Mozufferpore ... ..              | .....                    |   |
| <b>HINDI.</b>               |                                  |                                  |                          |   |
| <i>Weekly.</i>              |                                  |                                  |                          |   |
| 40                          | "Behār Bandhu" ... ..            | Bankipore, Patna ... ..          | 509                      | 5th ditto.  |
| <b>PERSIAN.</b>             |                                  |                                  |                          |   |
| 41                          | "Jām-Jahān-numā" ... ..          | Calcutta ... ..                  | 250                      | 31st May and 7th June 1878.                         |



## POLITICAL.

SAMACHARA  
CHANDRIKA,  
June 5th, 1878.

1. The *Samáchár Chandriká* referring to the recent telegram about the proposed Congress, says, "Great agitation prevails everywhere about the attitude of Russia and England. Fools only look and wish

The Congress and the existing relations between Russia and England.

for the defeat of the latter and victory of the former; to us it would simply imply total ruin; and it is for this reason that we never have desired to see nor will ever wish for England's defeat; for we must openly acknowledge that the English Government has bestowed on us a hundred thousand times more benefits, than the ills we may have sustained at its hands.

JAM JAHANNUMA,  
June 7th, 1878.

2. The *Jám-Jahán-numá* says that opinions were asked of the Sheriff of Mecca and the *Muftis* of Tunis and Morocco as to what part Turkey should take in any war that may arise between England and

Fatwas or opinions of the Doctors of Muhammadan Law on the part which Turkey should take.

Russia. The Mecca Sheriff gave as his reply that it would be time enough to think of this war actually arose, when the question could be submitted for decision to the Council of the learned men and the Ministers of the Cabinet. The Law Officers of Tunis and Morocco were of opinion that the Sultan ought to abstain from joining any party.

## PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.

BHARAT MIHIR,  
May 30th, 1878.

3. The *Bhárat Mihir* makes the following remarks with reference to the restriction which the Government of India seems desirous of placing on the feudatory armies. It has caused us much pain,

The Government of India and the feudatory armies.

because such mutual distrust existing between the Government and its subjects is injurious to the interests of both. Since Government has taken upon itself the protectorship of the kingdoms of the Native Princes, the country has nothing to do with the increase or diminution in the number of troops employed by each State. But what we feel distressed about is the great distrust exhibited towards the Princes themselves. Government, too, has taken this action just after Scindia, Holkár, Bhopál, and the Nizám had proffered to their Empress the assistance of their troops, on the occasion of the despatch of the Indian contingent to Malta; and Her Majesty had heartily thanked these Princes.

BHARAT MIHIR.

4. This paper, referring to the remarks of a contemporary that Native managers are able to do more work than Europeans, and that too at a less cost, says that the memorial presented by the *Isafsahi* ryots will show why European managers are in such great request.

The employment of European Managers.

Numberless instances from Mymensingh can be given of similar import. The Editor of this paper entertained the same opinion as his contemporary, but has had occasion to change his views; since he sees clearly that, without a *sáhib* manager, it is difficult for a zamindár himself to keep his estate secure. Mr. Savi of Isafsahi is not the only instance; if search be made in the different zillahs many such *Savis* will be forthcoming for whom all things are propitious; and therefore it is that the wise and self-interested zamindárs look out for such men.

BHARAT MIHIR.

5. The *Bhárat Mihir* heartily approves of Mr. Garrett's proposal to

Mr. Garrett's proposal as to the non-admission of married candidates to the Entrance Examination.

refuse admission to the Entrance Examination to married candidates. The University has done a great deal indeed in the way of education for the youth of this country; and whatever else may be forgotten, this great benefit accorded by Government will always be borne in mind; for never has a victorious foreign nation treated its weak and helpless subjects



with such liberality and munificence as the English have done. The University stands in the light of a teacher, and perhaps hesitates to interfere with the so-called domestic, social, and religious customs and usages of the country, lest it should fail in its own promises as to non-interference; but this we would call an erroneous reason, so far as it concerns the rule respecting early marriages. Whether countenanced by Hinduism, or whether the Hindu religion be silent on such matters, we assert that, if these marriages instead of taking place at 16 years of age were to be entered into in the 20th year, the practice would not be opposed to Hinduism, and consequently, if the University were to fix upon 21 as a marriageable age, it would be free from all blame of interference. By its own rules no one being under 16 years can attend the Entrance Examination, and it is at this age that some native youths become fathers. If it be considered inconsistent for the University to make a rule as to marriage, it is equally inconsistent for it to fix for its first limit of the Entrance Examination an age at which boys become fathers. As the proposal has been referred by the Director and Mr. Garrett to the several Local Committees in the mofussil, we hope the answers will be favourable; for by it the best interests of the country will be promoted. It is superfluous to say that early marriages are ruining this already impoverished country. The Director may take action in the matter without waiting for the University; and the most direct blow to strike at the root of this evil system is to stop giving scholarships to married students.

6. The *Hindu Hitaishini* agrees with the opinions of its English con-

HINDU HITASHINI,  
June 1st, 1878.

Mr. Garrett's proposal as to the non-admission of married students to the Entrance Examination.

temporaries that early marriage deteriorates the physical system and incapacitates one for study; but he argues if boys were to remain unmarried

till the age of 18 or 20 they would fall into vicious habits. A point also worthy of consideration is that young lads, by contracting marriage alliances, can obtain from their wives' relations means for prosecuting their studies, which they could not otherwise secure. Perhaps Mr. Garrett is not acquainted with this. In former times, boys of 10 married girls of 7 years of age; their offsprings were strong and lived for many years. Such was the case also among the Muhammadans. These remarks are not intended to argue an approval of early marriage, but only to draw attention to the fact that many are obliged from circumstances to marry at an early age. Medical opinions vary as to the causes of deterioration; at all events it is improper to keep a girl unmarried after she is 12 years of age. How is it that when people subsisted only on pulse and fish, they were strong and long-lived, but with more nourishing food at present they are weaker? Those who are closing the doors to the Entrance Examination, with the view of putting a stop to early marriages, do not seem to know anything of the internal affairs of the country. There is no doubt that in the course of time the marriageable age will be deferred. Our social customs should not be judged by a European standard, which is widely different from that of India. We cannot call the present proposition an excellent means for prohibiting early marriage; and therefore await the opinions of the several Local Committees with anxiety.

7. The *Dacca Prakash* considers Mr. Garrett's proposal very important and beneficial, though many deem it

DACCA PRAKASH,  
June 2nd, 1878.

Mr. Garrett's proposal as to the non-admission of married candidates to the Entrance Examination.

rather hard, while others would object to Government interfering in social matters. To

this last class no attention ought to be paid, since it is very necessary for the State that this dreadfully evil practice of early marriage, which not only destroys the bodily and mental faculties, but places many obstacles in the way of education, should be stamped out; and therefore the Director cannot be said



to have gone out of his way in directing attention to this matter. The Editor concludes by submitting certain propositions as to the limit of age for appearing at the different examinations; and thinks any hardship that would be felt may by these means be obviated.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,  
June 4th, 1878.

8. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* admits that Mr. Garrett's object in debarring married candidates from the Entrance Examination is not bad, but the Editor does not approve of the proposition in its entirety; because the

Mr. Garrett's proposal as to non-admission of married candidates to the Entrance Examination.

admitted evil custom of early marriage has been a long-standing one, and may be said to be now dying away of itself gradually owing to improvements in society. Most of the Entrance candidates are unmarried, and those that are not, come generally from a low class; again, there are those in indigent circumstances who are obliged to marry in order to get their fathers-in-law to pay for their education. Yet it does not appear proper for the Government to make a compulsory rule in this subject. It looks like an interference with the social customs of the people. The practice will die out of itself.

SAMACHAR  
CHANDRIKA,  
May 31st, 1878.

9. The *Samachar Chandrika*, after offering a few remarks on the Anglo-Indian Papers as being unfavourable to natives, notices a statement in the *Delhi Gazette*, to the effect that the people of Bhurtpore, rich and

Reprehensible conduct of the Editors of English Papers towards their native brethren of the press.

poor alike, are desirous of seeing Russia victorious and England defeated. Now, there is no one of any class, rank, or position in India who desires to see the fall of England, whose Queen has done everything in her power to make us comfortable and happy. Yet we must be allowed occasionally to express our dissatisfaction with some of the actions of her officers. In so doing, we ought not to be thought desirous of the extinction of British rule. Therefore it is, we say, that our distress and grievances are occasioned through the faults of the English newspapers. If Government places any reliance on the assertions of the *Delhi Gazette*, the people of Bhurtpore will be doomed to destruction.

MURSHIDABAD  
PATRIKA,  
May 31st, 1878.

10. The *Murshidabad Patrika*, writing of agrarian disturbances, remarks that the bitter oppression of the zamindars, years before the English rule

Agrarian riots.

existed, was tempered with love and mercy; but not so now under a better administration. Then the zamindars were despotic, but no agrarian riots were heard of. Now they constantly occur and the zamindar is invariably blamed; but this is not altogether right. He is obliged to meet the Government revenue demand on the due date, in failure of which his estate is sold; but if the ryot fails in his payments, what is he to do? Now, if the facts mentioned in the petition of the Salap ryots be all true, there could not have been a more marked case of highway robbery by day; and that too by a gentleman in a province under British administration; yet it must be borne in mind that all the items of accusation brought by the Salap ryots do not seem to be borne out by the circumstances; while it is too well known that ryots use every endeavour to get the zamindar into disrepute with the Government. This should be made one of the subjects of inquiry, during which Mr. Savi and the Magistrate should be compelled to absent themselves, else it will be very difficult to arrive at the truth of the matter. The main object of the Rent Settlement Bill, introduced lately into Council, is to have the rent payable by the tenant fixed, and that by a Deputy Collector; but the Editor is at a loss to understand how this will prevent riots.

URDU GUIDE,  
June 1th, 1878.

11. Referring to the remarks of the *Indian Daily News* on the unequal proportions of the two Police Divisions of the Town, the *Urdu Guide* agrees with its

Police Divisions of Calcutta.



contemporary in the matter, and adds that the Northern Division is not only three or four times more populous than the Southern, but the crimes committed in the former are far more numerous and more serious than in the latter, involving great labour on the Northern Division Magistrate. It is hoped Government will take some action in the matter, especially after the representation made by Mr. Dickens, the late incumbent.

12. The *Hindu Hitaishini*, referring to the memorial presented to the Lieutenant-Governor by the Salap ryots against the Sanyal zamindárs, observes that, in the present case, the Magistrate and police are accused of not putting a stop to the outrages of the *sáhíbs* and the *zamindárs*. Strict investigation into the matter will show where the fault lies. Mr. Eden would do much good to Bengal if he took up the Bill framed, but not passed by Sir George Campbell, as to agrarian riots and have it passed into law. The zamindárs are in most cases blamed for the faults of their managers and officers; but the tenants too do all they can to cheat their landlords out of their rights, or otherwise injure them. The lower classes of ryots used formerly to respect those above them, but now lose no opportunity of showing them disrespect and inducing others to do the same; and if the zamindári amlahs interfere, a disturbance is sure to arise. On this account, and also owing to the endeavours of the zamindárs to increase the rent, there is a constant bitter feeling between landlord and tenants. The Bill now before the Council will not set the matter at rest. It requires that three-fourths of the ryots or shareholders should unite in a petition to the Collector to fix the rent; and that fixed by a Deputy Collector deputed by him, if upheld by the Revenue authorities and the Civil Court, is to be the established rate which neither landlord nor tenant shall alter. But whether three-fourths of the tenants or shareholders would regard this as the best rule is doubtful. They will probably not have recourse to it until after long disputes, when no other remedy can be found. A book written by the worthy Deputy Collector, Bábu Párvatí Charan Ráy, has many excellent thoughts on the subject. Rates ought to be fixed with reference to the produce of the land, due remuneration to the ryots, and other expenses. We trust Government will soon settle the matter, else the country will be in an increasingly deplorable state.

HINDU HITAISHINI,  
June 1st, 1878.

13. The *Sulabha Samáchar* says that about 6,000 signatures have been obtained to the memorial against the Vernacular Press Act; but that no salaried Government officer has felt at liberty to put his name to it sambád, in consequence, it is said, of a prohibition to that effect.

SULABHA SAMACHARA,  
June 1st, 1878.

14. The *Sambád Prabhákar* has heard on credible authority that the Press Commissioner is not to render the same help to the Editors of Native periodicals as to those of English newspapers. If Lord Lytton has made such an arrangement for any special causes, it is hoped that he will take compassion on those Native newspapers who have long been conspicuous for their loyalty. It is distressing to see the just punished for the sins of the unjust.

SAMBAD  
PRABHAKARA,  
June 1st, 1878.

15. The *Sádháraní* has again another series of five articles, the purport of which is as follows: 1st. The English have from pity and a desire of gain preserved India. But for the compassion that ruled in their hearts and their desire for gain, they might have destroyed the different races that existed in the land. Those Missionaries, in whose labours we feel so little interest, and those English merchants, against whose self-interest we are so wrathful, are the people who have saved India, the Aryan name, and the early history of this country, and they are therefore entitled to our manifold blessings. 2nd. "Good and evil have both resulted from English compassion."

SADHARANI,  
June 2nd 1878.



Besides many other benefits that we have received, the two principal are the powers of thinking and speaking. Among the disadvantages arising from their kindness are these—(1) We are exceedingly helpless, and neither do nor undertake anything without their aid. (2) Independent thought is extinct. The bottomless stream of education into which we have been cast has, by the force of its current, nearly destroyed our former views under the weight of foreign thought. Had the English, animated by strong feelings of compassion, not been in a hurry to infuse English ideas into our weak brains, matters would never have turned out thus. (3). We have been petted and grown proud; the power of speaking which they bestowed on us we have sometimes misused. The English, however, are not distressed at our having become almost useless like spoilt children, or that we have lost our independence of thought, but have been annoyed at our conduct as indulged children; hence the enactment of Act IX. 3rd. "Good and evil have both resulted from the desire of gain on the part of the English." The papers have frequently ventilated the subject that India has suffered much through this predominating love of gain of the English. Of all the evils which have befallen India, the unrestricted lavish expenditure of her wealth is the greatest; yet we must admit also that this love of gain has not been altogether to our disadvantage. Of our advantages the chief is the extension of commerce. With this increase of commerce, India has learnt to feel her dependence on other nations. She then has learnt this beautiful lesson from the love of gain of the English, though in the loss of her wealth, bereft of blood and power, she has seen her way to prosperity. If the English would now but curb their appetites for a while and remove the present scarcity of food in India, it would be well. 4th. Our rulers have now begun to restrain both their compassion and their desire of gain. Many of the authorities have now come to discover, first, that through the encouragement we have had we are daily becoming more and more spoilt; and second, that their undue satisfaction of their desire for gain is daily throwing India into a state of anxiety on account of scarcity of food, and therefore they are placing a restraint on both these propensities. They are not so compassionate as they were, and since the famine in the south, their desire for gain is not as strong as it was. Proofs of this may be found in Lord Northbrook's actions; though of a kind disposition, he refused to listen to the entreaties of the independent Chiefs and Princes, and the cries of so many millions of natives in the matter of the Gaekwar of Baroda. Again, Lord Northbrook, who refused to prohibit the export of rice for one month only to save India, resigned his high post, when he was directed to impose a duty of 5 per cent. on all articles of country manufacture. He thought that an injury thus inflicted on the industries of India, though it might meet the low interests of English merchants, and gratify the well known desire for gain of the English race, would daily weaken India. Next, from the speeches of Lord Lytton and Sir John Strachey on the discussion upon the budget, it appeared that they were annoyed at England's wantonly sucking the wealth of India. Hence we say that, while our rulers do not think it right to encourage us and be compassionate as before, they have at the same time resolved on restraining their desire for gain, fully aware that it was an injury to India, and therefore it is that the Famine Commission has been appointed. 5th. A change in these two matters will be beneficial for India. When we are no longer petted and indulged, we shall soon learn to be independent and use means to supply our own wants. Along with this, if the English desire for gain goes on decreasing, this would be a crowning advantage; for with increasing confidence in our own capabilities, the way to trade and commerce will be made facile, and we shall become



known as a lively and an intelligent independent race. It is a duty devolving on us all to make known to the Famine Commission that this love of money on the part of the English race has been the cause of much loss to us. This we believe Government already knows in some measure, but we should make known the reasons in detail, and the Commission will doubtless listen to and make many matters convenient for us.

16. With reference to the letter of the Government of Bengal, to the British Indian Association, on the rights of

Right of occupancy ryots.

occupancy ryots, this paper says that the

Association deserves the strictures passed upon it. If the right of occupancy be generally transferable to all alike, both landlord and tenant will profit by it; the tenant, so far as he is able, will not allow his rent to fall into arrears, and the landlord will receive his rents regularly. This in itself is no ordinary benefit. On the other hand, the tenant will consider his land as an article of value, and be emboldened to devote his capital towards its improvement. It is not likely that large landed estates will thus be acquired; but many persons will be able to acquire middle-class and small holdings. If the value of holdings increase, it will be an advantage to all. We hope that gradually a number of middle-class respectable men will acquire from 100 to 150 beeghas of land and begin to cultivate it themselves; considering how trade is increasing, this may be a means of enabling many to pass their days in independence. The youth of the present time are beginning to have a dislike for service. With such advantages as these, we may shortly expect to see respectable men turn their attention to agriculture. But the landlords have a right to put this question—Suppose a man gradually purchase a number of holdings, there will then be a great probability of his letting out the land to under-tenants. Under these circumstances, would he be considered an intermediate tenant? and will these under-tenants in time obtain occupancy rights? Although practically this does not touch on the zamindár's interests, yet it is well for the welfare of the country that there should be as few middlemen as possible between the landlord and his tenants. The practice of having the land sub-divided into holdings and sub-holdings has been a curse on our land system; yet we cannot see how this evil can be removed. But we are bound to believe that our rulers will take this into consideration. There is another matter to which we would draw attention. Some arrangement should be made, whereby a new tenant shall be able easily to have his name registered in the office of the landlord, who should be entitled to a fee; but it would be hard for the tenant to have to remunerate all his hangers on. In case there is any difficulty in the matter, a rule should be passed, allowing the rent to be made in the office of the Collector, of which notice might be given to the landlord, who would then be obliged to acknowledge the new tenant.

SADHARANI,  
June 2nd, 1878.

17. The *Sahachar* gives a translation of the details in the Bagot Will

Female civilization and morals as seen in the Bagot case.

case now being tried in Dublin, and takes the opportunity to make the following remarks

on the propriety of female civilization and morality. Is female independence to be generally desired? Look at Mrs. Bagot, who is the daughter of a great man, and she herself educated. Yet see what happened! The prostitutes of our country would not act thus; yet there are those who are anxious to see the gemlike character of our females changed!

SAHACHAR,  
June 3rd, 1878.

18. The *Som Prakash* has the following remarks regarding the Surat

The Surat riots and the License Tax.

riots. From the newspapers, it would appear that the police have used force to extort con-

fession, and this has instilled fear into the minds of the innocent and the guilty, the good and the bad alike, and, as a consequence, the people are flying

SOM PRAKASH,  
June 3rd, 1878.



the country, not knowing what may at an evil moment befall them. We do not understand whether this is to be attributed to the folly of the people, the errors of the authorities, to a foreign Government, or to the fate of the country. At times we have thought that it was not the right thing to impose and to enforce a License Tax while Bombay and Madras had scarcely recovered from the famine. This was a mistake on the part of the authorities. It was folly in the people to have adopted illegal methods to gain their object without resorting to lawful means and seeking their remedy in petitions. We refer to a foreign Government and the fate of the country, because the natives had no desire to create a disturbance or to murder or wound Europeans. These things came about adventitiously. Two of the Surat Editors and a pleader have been charged with encouraging them. This is no ordinary offence, and strict enquiry should be made to ascertain whether they be truly guilty, or have been made so by the wiles of the police. Some cases are noticed in which justice has failed. A correspondent in Hooghly had written about one which might serve for an example. The evidence of the witnesses was clothed in language which might create doubt. Under such circumstances, the defendants ought to have had every opportunity given them for clearing themselves; but in the present case there was a failure. The person to whom the decision was entrusted was not favourable to natives. The place where he heard the case was 20 *kros* from the town. It should have been heard in the town, where the defendants might have had the benefit of counsel and attorney. If those men at Surat be proved guilty, let them be punished. But if they have been taken in the toils of the police, the authorities ought not to punish them. After some remarks about the License Tax of 1867, the writer goes on to say: The License Tax is an income tax on a smaller scale; only some who were able to pay were exempted from it; thus showing that our rulers are not able to do all things with equal regard to all.

SOM PRAKASH,  
June 3rd, 1878.

19. In another article on the Native Princes and the Indian Govern-

The Native Princes and the Government of India's recent circular.

ment, the Editor refers to a statement in the *Pioneer*, "that the enactment of Act IX would serve to show the Native newspapers that their existence was dependent on the favour of the Europeans, and they had no claim to it." And adds, not only the papers, but even wealth, honor, and our families may be under the control of an absolute Sovereign. The enactment of Act IX showed neither courage nor greatness; but the *Pioneer* is mistaken as to our having no claim; we have; dependent of course on the favour of a powerful lord. If he does not admit the claim, it is no longer a claim. But we have this source of strength—a wise and civilized ruler will not arbitrarily deny the claim. Yet in the case of Act IX, the heart of him that rules over India must have been not a little agitated, as ours also was. The writer next notices the circular lately addressed to the Native Princes, forbidding them to keep a larger number than necessary of disciplined troops. He fears this will inflict unnecessary pain, and might have been done in some other way, if needful. If the offer made by them to place their troops at Her Majesty's disposal had been accepted, and the troops used by Government, all the evil which our rulers dreaded from these troops would have been removed; and at the same time the Rájás would have had no cause for pain. Or the Native Princes, instead of having merely the honorary rank of Generals, might have each been entrusted with command. Of all countries in Europe, Hindustan resembles Germany most in having a number of small feudatory estates within it; but the Emperor of Germany appointed the kings to the command of his own troops; and the British Government makes a mistake in not doing the same.



If Scindia and the others held such responsible positions, would they not be able to come off victorious over the Russians? So is it not proper to keep the Native Princes on good terms? It is a pity that a want of confidence in their subjects and Princes makes the policy of our Rulers disagreeable to the natives.

20. In another article, on a new method of giving instruction, the *Som Prakash* refers to the benefits of education imparted by Government and Missionaries, and, with reference to a letter from Maldah, notices a new method of teaching the people how to respect Europeans. "When a Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ goes out into the street or to a market to buy fish, he strikes with a cane, or abuses every man that passes by him, and it is for this reason we have ceased going to the market. The other day he gave a *majhi* (boatman) two strokes with a cane; the poor fellow went away crying. We can no longer endure his outrages. He is old too and ought to be speedily pensioned and sent away."

The Editor infers from the letter that the European alluded to is a European officer of Government.

#### LOCAL.

21. This paper asks the Municipality to revert to the old system of permitting bodies to be cremated near the *Bánká-nadí* which is close by the city and therefore more convenient. The existing rule for burning bodies on the banks of the *Dámodar*, situated more than two miles from the town in this hot inclement weather, presses hard upon the respectable Hindus more especially; the change therefore is much needed.

22. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* states that the new police, organized by Government at so heavy a cost, seems to be worse than the old one which it has displaced. Neglect of the Burdwan Police. Recently there was a wedding procession at Moradabad, in the district of Burdwan, passing along the most public place of the town, at about 9 P.M., when it was surrounded by a number of *badmashes* demanding money; this being refused, a serious affray ensued, during which no constable or police officer was to be seen. Some time after policemen made their appearance. The offenders were arrested and taken subsequently before a Magistrate and fined. The police were thus able to make it appear before the Magistrate how active they were, but he seemed to have forgotten to ask how it came to pass there were no policemen present when the affray commenced; for they by their presence might have prevented the occurrence of any disturbances.

23. In an article following the above, this paper complains of the great increase of dacoity and highway robbery in the Burdwan district, which the Editor attributes to the neglect of the local police, who have up to the present time been unsuccessful in tracing the culprits in two previous well-known cases. Mr. Larminie, the Magistrate who comes here with a good reputation for ability and diligence, has hitherto showed no marks of great activity in his work, and we cannot give him much credit for the little we have seen; he must take care to rouse up the police from time to time, and not rely implicitly on them. The English Government has always shown the greatest desire to protect the lives and property of its subjects, and the Magistrate should, as its representative, take care to preserve the dignity of the Government; let him but be more active and we are sure all will go well.

SOM PRAKASH,  
June 3rd, 1878.

SOM PRAKASH

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,  
June 4th, 1878.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI.



GRANVARTA  
PRAKASHIKA,  
June 5th, 1878.

24. The *Grámvártá Prakáshiká*, referring to the recent  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. loan asked for by Government, suggests this as a better method for meeting deficits than imposing license and other taxes, which press heavily on the poor, especially during the present hard times. When the country recovers itself somewhat, an income tax to wipe off the present loan may safely be started. This would affect the rich and wealthy, and not be so much felt by them as the excessive pressure of the License Tax is by the poor. Seeing the preparations made to collect the latter tax, we feel it our duty again to implore Government to remove it altogether, as we have every reason to fear that the system, and the machinery employed to realize it, threatens great oppression towards all. Until famine and scarcity of food cease, no fresh tax should be imposed; because the poor find it hard to pay their present assessment.

BISHWA DUT,  
June 5th, 1878.

25. A correspondent, writing to this paper, praises Mr. Stevens much, calling him a skilful and clever man, but says he got into difficulties through trusting too implicitly to his subordinates. The correspondent advises Government, if it really desires to purify the Nuddea Collectorate, not to rest satisfied with changing the old judicial officers, but also some of the subordinates. The miscellaneous department is in a very disorderly state and requires to be looked after immediately, or every new official coming here will get himself into trouble and be removed in his turn.

#### FAMINE.

BHARAT MIHIR,  
May 30th, 1878.

26. The *Bhárat Mihir* remarks that, while so much is being published about famine in other parts of the country, not a line appears in any of the newspapers about the present condition of Bengal. Articles in Bengal are sold at famine prices, and yet nothing is said about a famine here. It is not dearth and distress then that constitute a famine, but only when people begin to die of starvation that a famine properly so-called happens! That the streams, canals, and other reservoirs of water in the land are filling up is admitted by all, even by the Lieutenant-Governor himself in his recent resolution; but we know not where this is to end.

DACCA PRAKASH,  
June 2nd, 1878.

27. The *Dacca Prakásh* admitting the facts of the visitation of this country by periodical famines, proceeds to give some reasons to account for the price of corn having risen so very high: 1st, by the exportation of corn to foreign countries grain has become exceedingly scarce. Second, by the frequent tilling of the same ground by ignorant cultivators, who will not supply it with manure, the productive powers of the soil decrease. Third, paddy land is largely taken up for the cultivation of jute and opium. Fourth, the increase of land under cultivation has not been proportionate to the increase of the population. Fifth, rice cultivators have taken to the practice of storing up larger quantities of corn than before in their houses. Sixth, the increase of petty dealers who, after competing for the purchase of corn, store it up in their houses and sell it a little at a time with the view to get more profit. Seventh, natural accidents, such as droughts, flood, storms, &c.

Government ought now to make inquiries and find out which of the above causes has tended to raise the price of corn, and thereafter to seek some remedy against it. Whether this subject has been put down as one for inquiry in the list of the work before the recently appointed Famine Commission is not known. Constituted as it is for the most part of Europeans, and two persons from Madras and Bombay, and none from Bengal or the North-West, famine affairs concerning the above two Presidencies alone will be investigated; but our prayer is that the inquiry may embrace



the whole country ; in fact, the main causes of the famine, and all statistics relative thereto, should be investigated. If Government is really desirous to see the welfare of this country, it will make it a part of the business of the Commission to ascertain the causes leading to the frequent recurrence of famines ; why the price of corn is everywhere increasing, and which class suffers the most therefrom, and how this is to be remedied.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,  
*The 8th June 1878.*

JOHN ROBINSON,  
*Government Bengali Translator.*



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JOHN H. HOLLAND

General Manager, Calcutta

Secretary, Calcutta

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